

POL'S PLUG HAT.

TABLE "JOINT OF STOVEPIPE" WITH ROMANTIC BRIM.

As a Tile Rack and at One Time the Postoffice of New Salem—its most Experience Was When It Served Football For Ladies.

There are enough of funny incidents in the life of Mr. Lincoln's hat to make it a song and illuminated in the night of his election to the presidency, when the ladies at the postoffice testified their glow over the fortune. The scene would have been a sight to see between the story told by an eyewitness.

One of us ladies went over and Mrs. Lincoln prepared a little supper for the friends of Mr. Lincoln, who were invited to hear the returns. About half hour or so we would pass coffee and cakes. About 1 o'clock morning enough had been learned that the belief that the rail split had been elected. I think it was we heard the news from New Salem.

The men rushed on Mr. Lincoln took his hands, while some of the actually hugged him, and—I as well admit it—I kissed him. When some one went into the hall back from the rack the old silk hat wore, and which was as long as of stovepipe and about as shapely mind, and it was thrown up to the ceiling. As it came down some one it a kick, and then the women in the fun, and we played football that hat until it was an indispensable mass. We were simply be- control. What a ridiculous scene had have been to one looking in at knowing what prompted it!

It was all the more so, so far as I concerned, for originally I had been a woman. While the conven- ing in session in Chicago we were to hear the news. It had been in case Lincoln received the election to fire a cannon. My neighbor was a Mrs. Dubois, with I had several friendly spats during the campaign preceding the nonni- I heard the cannon shot, and next moment I saw Mrs. Dubois rushing across the street. She had been a shirt for her husband, who about the size of the late Judge Davis, so you may have some idea size of the garment she was wear- She rushed into the house and it in my face. It made me and I sat down and began crying. Good woman put her arms around me, and I kissed her. From that time we were Lincoln. She took part in the football

not content with his 6 feet 4 or 5 of giant stature, Lincoln had a historic hat made fully a foot with a brim almost as big as a sombrero. It seemed to have a combination of all styles then in vogue, and in this respect it reflected early experience in having been a keeper, soldier, surveyor and a solicitor. It was a veritable hat of stovepipe, and its remarkable and romantic brim made it alike in rain or shine. It might be called with propriety a "plug" after the name of the mob in more that threatened him in his day to the capital.

During Lincoln's great debate with the hat fairly loomed into the scene. The smallness of the latter's caused him to be nicknamed "Little Giant," and when Lincoln beside him with his hat on the scene between the two seemed all immeasurable. Curiously enough, Mr. Lincoln came to be inaugurated at Washington and took off his hat on the stand preparatory to making inaugural address Douglas held the hat so that no careless person might see it.

Representative Springer, who hailed Lincoln's old home, knew the hat and in speaking of it recently said: "Lincoln's high hat was the most sensible thing of his whole outfit. He carried all his valuable papers, and it was a sort of file rack. Here all the briefs of his various law cases. Curiously enough, he carried the hat in his head, and that is why it cost so much money. Had he not the process and kept his accounts in his hat and the cases in his head, he would have been better off. His hat was for his satchel on a journey, and that was needed besides this were saddlebags and his horse. It was a hat and capacious, and a great many documents and data could be crowded in without seriously discommoding the wearer."

Mr. Lincoln had still a better use for his valuable tile, which seems to have more virtues than those referred to in the nursery tale of "Jack and Beanstalk." When he was posted at New Salem, his hat became an important part of his office equipment. As soon as the mail was received the young postmaster would take the letters in his hat and take a walk through the village. The village knew that he was a peripatetic office, and of course everybody was anxious to know the contents of the hat, and seemed to promise as much to as a hat in the hands of a sleight hand performer.—Washington Cor. Louis Republic.

Sweet Childhood.
"Europe's in the east, isn't it?"
"Yes."
"And you can get there just starting west and going far enough."
"Yes."
"Father—Certainly."
"Well, then, whereabouts on the way round do you stop going west to get east again?"—Chicago

Queer Plants Used For Foods.
Little Known Vegetables and Edible Insects of the Prairie.
Over at the department of agriculture, hidden away in an obscure corner, is an odd sort of exhibit of queer foods eaten by out of the way people. There is a lot of bread made from the roasted leaves of a plant allied to the century plant. Another kind of bread is from a dough of juniper berries. These are relished by some tribes of Indians, while others manufacture cakes out of different kinds of bulbs.

The prairie Indians relish a dish of wild turnips, which civilized people would not be likely to enjoy at all. In the great American desert the "screw beans," which grow on mesquite bushes, are utilized for food. Soap berries furnish an agreeable diet for some savages in this country, while in California the copper colored aborigines do not disdain the seeds of salt grass.

Also in California the Digger Indians collect pine nuts, which are the seeds of certain species of pine, sometimes called "pinons," by kindling fires against the trees, thus causing the nuts to fall out of the cones. At the same time a sweet gum exudes from the bark, serving the purpose of sugar. The seeds of gourds are consumed in the shape of mush by Indians in Arizona.

In addition to all these things the exhibit referred to includes a jar of pulverized crickets which are eaten in that form by the Indians of Oregon. They are roasted, as are likewise grasshoppers and even slugs. These delicacies are cooked in a pit, being arranged in alternate layers with hot stones. After being thus prepared they are dried and ground to powder. They are mixed with pounded acorns or berries, the flour made in this way being kneaded into cakes and dried in the sun.

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The Asiniboinese use a kind of seed of stop bleeding at the nose. Among other curious things used for food are acorns, sunflower seeds, grape seeds, flowers of cattails, moss from the spruce fir tree and the blossoms of wild clover. The exhibit embraces a number of models representing grape seeds enormously enlarged. It is actually possible to tell the species of a grape by the shape of the seed. There is a jar of red willow bark, which Indians mix with tobacco for the sake of economy. This, however, is only one of a thousand plants that are utilized in a similar fashion.—Washington Star.

A Jamaica Congregation.
In pours the black portion of the congregation. It is composed for the most part of women. They are gorgeously arrayed in silks and cottons of the most bewildering brilliancy, with golden beehive shaped ornaments in their ears and twists of gold about their necks, and all are beaming and smiling with the utmost complacency and self satisfaction. With a great many of them the first duty is to take off their boots or shoes. Small wonder, for half of them are in the habit of trudging 20 or 30 miles a day barefooted to and from market, and the other half, if they do not use their feet so hardly, at any rate never confine them.

Poor or wanting in proper pride indeed must be that woman who cannot raise a pair of boots or shoes for Sunday use! It means agony, you may conceive, to keep pinched up in stiff leather a pair of feet used to free, untrammelled movement, but it has to be borne, and it is borne—for a few minutes. It is managed thus: On the road to church a halt is made at about 200 yards' distance from the building for the purpose of putting on the boots or shoes, which have been hitherto held in the hands. Church is then hobbled into and the boots or shoes taken off, to be again put on as the service draws to close. Church is then hobbled out of, and at a respectable distance from it the instruments of torture are again got rid of, not to be put on again for a week.—All the Year Round.

Electric Quantity and Tension.
Electric quantity and tension—or intensity—are terms based on the assumption that electricity is a fluid. Quantity is the amount of the fluid that a body contains as its charge and the tension or intensity on any point of its surface—insulated electricity lies on the surface—is the depth, or if the depth remain the same the density of the fluid at that point. The quantity has reference to the number of particles electrified and the amount of force lodged in each; the tension has reference simply to the inductive force lodged in each. Particles that are highly electrified must polarize powerfully the particles near them, and if powerful enough cause discharge. Tension of intensity, therefore, is the power to polarize and effect discharge. The quantity of electricity passing in a current is estimated by the power of the current to deflect the magnetic needle by the chemical decomposition it effects, or by the temperature to which it raises a wire of given thickness and material. The tension or intensity of the current is the power which it has to transmit a current against resistance, such as that offered by a bad, long or thin conductor. Tension, strictly speaking, is not a property of the current, but of the battery which generates the current.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Where Snow Is Red.
Snow is sometimes found in polar and Alpine regions, where it lies unmelting from year to year and the annual fall is small, colored red by the presence of innumerable small red plants. In its native state the plant consists of brilliant red globules on a gelatinous mass. Red snow was observed by the ancients, a passage in Aristotle referring to it, but it attracted little or no attention until 1760, when Sanesoro observed it in the Alps and concluded that it was due to the pollen of a plant. It was also noticed by the arctic expedition under Captain Ross on Baffin's bay shore on a range of cliffs, the red color penetrating to a depth of 12 feet. Less frequent is a green growth on snow.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Concerning Dreams.
They Occupy Only a Few Seconds and Are Affected by Events.
Doctors assert that dreams occupy a few seconds only—at most the space of about three minutes. This statement is startling to those who have not noticed for themselves what part time plays in such a connection. The writer has had several opportunities of proving its correctness herself, and many might arrive at a similar knowledge by asking to be awakened a minute or so after falling into a first sleep. All who dream will do so immediately on falling into unconsciousness. Another reliable test is to be found in the sleep that follows upon the morning summons for rising. A few more moments snatched for the tempting after doze will not unfrequently mean a dream of a very elaborate nature—one which implies almost as many hours as seconds.

Are dreams affected by the events of our wakeful hours? Is the question that has been asked over and over again, but the result of observation leads one to believe in such being the case or not, according to the importance with which we treat them. In connection with such a question events and individuals can scarcely fail to require separate consideration. Events that are all important to some do not commend themselves in that light to others, and this fact leads one to express the opinion that, according to the intensity with which outward events occupy our thoughts, will our dreams be in any way affected by them.

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To one woman the exercise of hospitality means the entire surrender of her mental domain to all the worries, real or imaginary, consequent upon the preparations for the contemplated entertainment. To another, the needful directions once given, there is an immediate return to considerations which outweigh in her opinion the more material ones that held a whilom place in her thoughts. In the one case culinary failures and visions of indifferent service will probably haunt the dreams that precede or follow that entertainment. In the other no such tortures are involved in the sleeping hours.

There have been startling instances of the brain's power to solve difficult questions during sleep. A case in point is that of a lawyer engaged in a criminal defense. The examination of one witness after another seemed only to add to the proof of his client's guilt. Wearing one night with trying to find some point which might turn the scale in the prisoner's favor, he fell asleep, and in a dream the desired point stood out clearly. On awakening it was immediately worked out, and the verdict of "not guilty" was found consequent upon that revelation afforded during the hours of sleep.

When exercising the imaginative faculties to any great extent, the dreams will always preserve the ideal character of the wakeful hours. The composer will dream of the melodies which provide his own lullaby when dropping into slumber, and the artist and the writer enter the land of dreams in company with those that the pen or the brush are guided to depict with such a loving hand. Plots have been furnished and subjects for the canvas have been suggested over and over again in the quiet hours of the night, when to all outward appearances there is nothing but the most peaceful slumber on the part of the sleeper.—Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

African Disappointments.
As a continent Africa is the home of a vigorous race of mankind, which, while resisting assimilation with European civilization, defies permanent conquest. European travelers, traders, missionaries, conquerors, may at their will and at their peril penetrate into this dark sanctuary, but their sojourn is for a day, and on the morrow the faint traces of their passage are obliterated by the exuberant growths of barbarism. Grudgingly as it is sometimes conceded, it is nevertheless a fact that the bulk of the continent of Africa is still untouched by western civilization. For one cannot believe that Africa will ever be Europeanized or brought within the pale of western progress, for in order that Africa may progress it is absolutely essential that it be developed along natural lines, but as yet the inherent powers of native genius have neither been discovered, nor in the absence of any cohesion among native tribes and in view of European rapacity are they, even if discovered, ever likely to be encouraged or fostered. No; Africa is a continent fated to be conquered and exploited by the heirs of civilization, to whom it may pay tribute, but homage never.—Nineteenth Century.

To Keep One's Youth.
A distinguished English scientist, Mr. William Kinnear, in a magazine article insists that the secret of perennial youth is to be found in the use of distilled water and phosphoric acid. He says that death, or disease that produces death, is caused by the deposit in the human system of calcareous or earthy matter, and that the drinking of distilled water, which is itself a great solvent, and the use also of from 10 to 15 drops of diluted phosphoric acid in each tumblerful of water will remove such deposits and prolong human life to the very latest limit. In several of the great hotels in New York distilled water is provided at the table and for the use of the guests in their rooms, and the advertisement of this fact attracts many patrons.—Detroit Free Press.

About Gingerbread.
The homely luxury, gingerbread, has been popular ever since the fourteenth century. It was then made and sold in Paris. In those days it was prepared with rye meal made into a dough, and ginger and other spices, with sugar or honey, were kneaded into it. It was introduced into England by the court of Henry IV for their festivals and was soon brought into general use, treacle being after a time employed in the manufacture instead of honey.—Popular Magazine.

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